

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:TJCAROLAN:DPW

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

NEA:ARDA

NEA/ARN:MDRAPER

NEA/ARP:FDICKMAN (SUBS)

PM/SAS:DKEENE

S/S:FVORTIZ

DOD/OSD/ISA:RTHOMPSON (SUBS)

DOD/DSAA:CPERKINS (SUBS)

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O 272202Z APR 76 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 101829 TOSEC 110211

EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR, SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, US, SA

SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE

REF: (A) AMMAN 2264, (B) AMMAN 2228, (C) JIDDA 3036

1. YOUR SHOULD INFORM PRINCE SAUD AND, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, PRINCE FAHD THAT WE HAVE MADE URGENT INQUIRIES WITH KING HUSSEIN AND HAVE AGAIN ASCERTAINED (REFTEL A) THAT HE REMAINS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN PURCHASING AN ADEQUATE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM FROM THE U.S. WITH SAUDI FUNDING. (WE AGREE YOU SHOULD AVOID MENTIONING RIFAI IN THIS CONNECTION.) YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT HUSSEIN'S ASSURANCES SHOULD BE RE-
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GARDED AS OVERRIDING WHATEVER IMPRESSIONS TO THE CONTRARY

THE SAUDIS MAY HAVE GAINED FROM LATEST COMMUNICATIONS FROM GOJ -- COMMUNICATIONS WHICH WERE UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT OUR KNOWLEDGE AND OVER WHICH WE WERE UNABLE TO EXERCISE ANY CONTROL. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT ON BASIS OF THESE RENEWED ASSURANCES, WE HOPE SAG WILL PROCEED WITH ITS URGENT CONSIDERATION OF DOLS 520 MILLION FUNDING PROPOSAL CONVEYED BY YOU TO PRINCE FAHD ON APRIL 20.

2. YOU SHOULD ALSO ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER CROWN PRINCE HASSAN IS AVAILABLE, AND SEEK TO TALK WITH HIM IF THAT IS FEASIBLE. PURPOSE WOULD BE TO BRIEF HIM ON LATEST

CONTRETEMPS CREATED BY GOJ-SAG CORRESPONDENCE AND OUR EFFORTS TO OVERCOME IT, AND TO SUGGEST THAT HE REINFORCE ABOVE ASSURANCES TO SAUD AND FAHD. YOU SHOULD INFORM HASSAN THAT WHILE DECISION ON WHETHER TO INVOLVE HIMSELF IN THIS MATTER IS REALLY UP TO HIM, WE BELIEVE THAT SAUDIS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HEARING WHAT HE HAS TO SAY ON THIS SUBJECT AND IN FACT MIGHT WELL INTERPRET HIS SILENCE AS CONFIRMING THEIR TENDENCY TO REGARD GOJ AS DISINTERESTED IN OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE FUNDING PROBLEM. YOU MIGHT ADD THAT HIS INVOLVEMENT AT THIS CRUCIAL JUNCTURE COULD HELP IN REACHING A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTION AND THEREBY RENDER IT UNNECESSARY FOR GOJ TO TURN TO SOVIET UNION TO OBTAIN AIR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT.

3. FYI: WE ARE CURRENTLY CONSIDERING WHETHER SOME WAY COULD BE DEvised TO GAIN ADDITIONAL TIME BEYOND APRIL 30. AT OUR REQUEST, DOD IS DOING ITS BEST TO DETERMINE WHAT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE IN WAY OF LIMITED, DAY-TO-DAY EXTENSION OF APRIL 30 DEADLINE. WE ARE AS YET UNABLE TO PROVIDE CONCLUSIVE GUIDANCE ON THIS SCORE; BUT WE HOPE TO BE IN POSITION TO DO SO WITHIN NEXT 24 HOURS. END
FYI. SISCO

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NNN

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